

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES: MT. STORM / SACRED HEART HISTORIC DISTRICT

Statement of Compatibility

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New Construction

(Click on small map above to enlarge.)

STATEMENT OF COMPATIBILITY

Applications for certificates of appropriateness shall be judged by their conformance to these guidelines. All alterations and environmental changes shall be designed and executed in a manner which is compatible with and sympathetic to the architecture within the Mount Storm/Sacred Heart Historic District and shall respect the landscape characteristics of the site.

FEATURES SUBJECT TO PROTECTION

Significant features of the district subject to protection are:

- A. The Sacred Heart Academy Building
- B. The Sacred Heart Site
- C. The Temple of Love
- D. The Stone Shelter
- E. The Brick Service Building
- F. The Mt. Storm Park Site
- G. The decorative electric lights
- H. The gas lights on Lafayette Avenue
- I. The iron fence on Lafayette Avenue

Changes to all other architectural and site features, though less significant to the district, are also subject to review as specified in Section 741-13 (a).

ARCHITECTURAL AND SITE CHARACTERISTICS

Clifton's Mt. Storm/Sacred Heart Historic District is composed of two distinct parts bisected by Lafayette Avenue. The first is the 59-acre Mt. Storm Park which is characterized by open, rolling grassy hills with mature trees framing vistas to the south and west. There are three structures within the park and several decorative electric lights along the access road into the park. The other part of the district is composed of the Sacred Heart Academy site. The site is open and relatively flat on the north and is comprised of approximately 15 acres, including the Sacred Heart Academy Building. The remainder of the site, over 24 acres, is steep and densely wooded. This hillside is within Edgewood Grove Park.

A. Sacred Heart Academy

Sacred Heart Academy consists of an asymmetrical massing of building elements built in phases over a period of some forth years. Construction throughout is of gray ashlar stone. Significant features include a sour-story square tower of English Medieval appearance; a

gabled, cruciform-shaped chapel; and a varied roofline of gables and dormers. There are also front and rear porches and entry canopies. The overall image is that of a castle with rhythmic horizontal and vertical projections. There are a variety of window types, sizes, and shapes but they are generally vertically proportioned, double-hung wood windows. Lintels and sills are stone. Tower windows exhibit Gothic tracery. Most window openings have straight lintels but some have pointed or segmental arches. Several stone stringcourses occur on the south side of the building where there is more varied window treatment. Roofs are slate or metal.

B. Temple of Love

The mid-19th Century Temple of Love is an open, cylindrical, eight-columned pavilion covered with a domed roof. The roof has surface ribs radiating out from an urn finial. The ribs form a scalloped pattern. The metal columns are crowned with Corinthian capitals and sit on a three-tiered round base of granite. The frieze consists of a pattern of swans and foliage. The Temple is sited at the entrance to Mt. Storm Park at the end of a meadow where its stark whiteness against a backdrop of green is a commanding presence.

C. Stone Shelter

The Mount Storm Park Shelter is a symmetrical, rectangular stone structure with a tall center pavilion and lower flanking wings. The pavilion consists of four large stone piers on the east and west elevations topped by a stone soldier course and stone coping. Between the piers are distressed wood lintels supported by rounded stone brackets. The words "Mount Storm Park" are incised into the lintels on the east elevation. On the west elevation a terrace opens onto steps framed by low stone walls. The building is sited at the crest of a hill.

D. Brick Service Building

The brick service building is a two-story U-shaped vernacular structure which is sited in the southwestern corner of the Park. There are several arched openings on the first floor but most window openings have been modified and brickwork patched. Most windows have stone sills and lintels. The cornice is dentilated. The building sits in an isolated part of the Park.

REVIEW CRITERIA

A. Alteration and Rehabilitation

Materials—Rehabilitation and alteration should match the original construction as closely as possible with regard to:

type of material	configuration	detailing
size of unit	texture	location
color	type of joint	
shape	placement	

Construction—As much as possible, original work should be repaired rather than replaced. If replacement is necessary, care should be taken to replicate the original work with regard to the material characteristics stated in the guideline for Materials (above) and respecting the applicable specific characteristics found in the Architectural and Site Characteristics (above).

Cleaning—Cleaning should be by the most gentle method possible and only when necessary to halt deterioration. No masonry surface shall be sandblasted.

Demolition—No significant features of the district should be demolished. Demolition of minor, inappropriate additions and non-significant structures may be permitted if their loss will not adversely affect the district or its significant features.

Painting—No stone surface shall be painted. Trim shall be painted a color which contrasts with the wall color. The Temple of Love shall remain white unless research ascertains a different original color.

B. New Construction

Materials—The type of materials and their color, texture, scale, and detailing should be compatible with the materials of the original building impacted by the new work.

Scale—The scale of new work and its constituent parts should be compatible with the original building impacted by the new work and the scale of its parts.

Form—The shape, massing, and proportions of new work should be compatible with the original building which is impacted by the new work.

Detailing—The placement and detailing of a new work, including but not limited to:

walls	eaves	porches
roofs	cornices	railings
windows	chimneys	belt courses
doors	towers	appurtenances

Should be compatible with the scale, proportion, rhythm, and style of the original building impacted by the work.

Location—New construction should be placed sensitively within the district respecting the architecture, topography and tree cover and shall not obstruct the view of:

- Sacred Heart Academy
- The Temple of Love
- The Stone Shelter

No new construction shall remove or obscure significant elements of protected structures.

Height—On the Sacred Heart Academy site, new construction shall not exceed the height of the main tower. On the Mt. Storm site, new construction shall not exceed the height of the Temple of Love.

Historic Integrity—Compatibility of new work to original work is required but imitation of old work in new construction should be avoided. New work should appear to be new work. Where new additions meet original work, the connection should be carefully designed so as not to detract from the original but to also reflect the fact that the connection is new. If original openings are filled in, the outline of the original openings should remain apparent by setting new in-fill material back from the surface and leaving original sills and lintels in place. Historic integrity is to be maintained by designing new buildings, structures, appurtenances, additions, connections and filled-in openings so that they do not appear to have been constructed when the affected protects structure was originally built.